

CHAPTER 2022-58

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 963

An act relating to funding for sheriffs; amending s. 39.3065, F.S.; authorizing sheriffs who provide child protective investigative services to carry forward a certain percentage of unexpended state funds each fiscal year; requiring certain funds to be returned to the Department of Children and Families; prohibiting funds carried forward from being used in certain ways; requiring that certain expenditures be reported to the department; requiring certain funds to be returned to the department; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 39.3065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.3065 Sheriffs of certain counties to provide child protective investigative services; procedures; funding.—

(3)

(c) Funds for providing child protective investigations must be identified in the annual appropriation made to the department, which shall award grants for the full amount identified to the respective sheriffs' offices. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181(16)(b) and 216.351, the department may advance payments to the sheriffs for child protective investigations. A sheriff may carry forward documented unexpended state funds from one fiscal year to the next. However, the cumulative amount of state funds carried forward may not exceed 8 percent of the sheriff's office total contract amount or grant agreement amount. Any unexpended state funds in excess of that amount and all unexpended federal funds must be returned to the department. The funds carried forward may not be used to create increased recurring future obligations or for any type of program or service that is not currently authorized by the existing contract or grant award agreement with the department. The expenditure of funds carried forward must be separately reported to the department. A sheriff must return all unexpended funds to the department if that sheriff's office will no longer be providing child protective investigations. Funds for the child protective investigations may not be integrated into the sheriffs' regular budgets. Budgetary data and other data relating to the performance of child protective investigations must be maintained separately from all other records of the sheriffs' offices and reported to the department as specified in the grant award agreement.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2022.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2022.